



DECISION DOCUMENTATION
Between the
United States Forest Service (USFS)
And the

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

The purpose of this decision document is to provide a means of capturing the decisions made by all parties involved in the coordination and operation of this fire. Costs will not be apportioned between the parties involved, as each agency will absorb their own costs.

General Fire Information:

Incident Name: MacDonald Pass

Origin: Township 9 North Range 6 West Section 2, SE Quarter

Incident Start Date and Time: September 25, 2009 @ 1430

Incident Cause: Human - Under investigation

Incident Numbers by Agency:

Agency	Fire #	Accounting Code
USFS	MT-HNF-000059	P1E7RS
DNRC	MT-HNF-000059	779002
DNRC	MT-HNF-000059	879002

Principal Contacts:

The following personnel are the principal contacts:

Title:	Name:	Agency:
Agency Administrator	Kevin Riordan	USFS
Agency Representative	Duane Harp	USFS
Agency Administrator	Garry Williams	DNRC
Agency Representative	Greg Archie	DNRC

Protection Responsibility:

1. Does the fire area or any mitigation actions taken affect more than 1 area of protection responsibility?

Yes X No _____

IF YES, use the following matrix to identify all agencies that:

- have responsibility for wildland fire protection, structure protection and structure fire suppression.

- have areas of overlapping responsibility.

Entity & Protection Area Description	Wildland Fire Responsibility (Y or N)	Structure Protection Responsibility (Y or N)	Structure Suppression Responsibility (Y or N)
Federal Agency USFS – Helena National Forest <i>Area Description:</i> USFS lands – MacDonald Pass	Yes	Yes	No
Local Government Baxendale VFD <i>Area Description:</i> Helena, MT	Yes	Yes	Yes

Definitions for Wildland Fire Protection, Structure Protection, and Structure Fire Suppression are contained in the Northern Rockies Coordinating Group Agency Administrators Memo of 5/28/08, entitled, “Community and Structure Protection Guidelines”.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/index.html>

Structure Protection and Structure Suppression Details:

1. Were any structures threatened? Yes X No
2. Were structure protection actions conducted:
 - a. within the active fire area? Yes No X
 - b. outside the active fire area? Yes X No

IF YES to any of the above questions, use the following matrix to:

- document actions that were taken in regard to structure fire protection and structure fire suppression
- identify who has responsibility for those actions
- identify the locations of the actions taken.

Location and total number of structures at that location	Within active fire area? (Y or N)	Agency(s) Responsible for Structure Protection	Agency(s) Responsibility for Structure Suppression	Number of structures threatened at that location
Baxendale VFD and surrounding areas (south of Highway 12)	No	Baxendale VFD	Baxendale VFD	15 structures, Clausen Road

3. Describe the actions and financial responsibilities within the active fire area taken by each agency

USFS: Full suppression actions were taken on the MacDonald Pass fire in accordance to fire policy. Resources were ordered through ROSS and financial responsibility for those resources lies with the USFS. No structures within the active fire area were threatened.

Baxendale VFD and DNRC: For areas within the active fire, all DNRC/cooperator resources ordered via ROSS took actions commensurate with directions from the USFS. Financial responsibility for resources ordered by the USFS lies with the USFS. Baxendale resources, however, engaged in actions within the active fire area commensurate with their mission and will be compensated via DNRC county assist.

4. Describe the actions and financial responsibilities outside the active fire area taken by each agency.

USFS: The USFS set up multiple areas outside the immediate fire that will be paid by the USFS. These areas include: dip sites and water sources, ICP at the fairgrounds, and helibase. Land Use Agreements for these areas are in place and will be processed by the USFS.
No structure protection was provided by the USFS outside the active fire area.

DNRC: Baxendale VFD took actions outside the active fire area and will be financially responsible for those actions. This includes all structure protection or structure suppression.

Fire Situation Description:

When the fire began, Baxendale VFD responded as it was within their identified protection boundaries and upon assessing the fire, called DNRC for county assist. This fire is wholly on USFS lands but has a portion that is also in protection boundaries for Baxendale VFD (map attached). Therefore, a unified command was set up between the USFS, Baxendale VFD, and the Lewis and Clark County sheriff's department. The Lewis and Clark County Sheriff coordinated directly with Baxendale VFD and DNRC for their role.

A T2 IMT was called in September 26 and was filled by Jess Secrest's Type 2 IMT. Secrest's team managed the fire from 9/27 (1800) - 10/1 (0600).

Before the IMT arrived, resources were being checked in and tracked by a DNRC LIST team at Baxendale VFD hall. This team transitioned with Secrest's team but DNRC Finance remained in place to track county/DNRC resources.

Decisions (list here):

The cost of all resources ordered by the USFS (either Secrest's team or the IA/Extended attack USFS IC) will be reimbursed or paid by the USFS. These resources are documented by a resource order and include some DNRC and County resources which were filled by HIDC through ROSS. These DNRC and County resources will use the DNRC reimbursable SABHERS ORG 779002.

Additional DNRC and County resources were utilized during initial attack and throughout extended attack which are considered to be resources utilized by the Baxendale VFD as part of their protection responsibility. These resources do not have a Resource Order through HIDC and costs will be the responsibility of DNRC through the Cooperative Fire Control Agreement. These resources will utilize the non-reimbursable SABHERS ORG 879002. These resources are tracked by DNRC finance personnel which provided daily cost estimates for the ICS-209.

Signatures of Authorized Personnel & Attachments:

List any attachments here:

Resource Ordering and Status System (ROSS) printouts for resources ordered by USFS

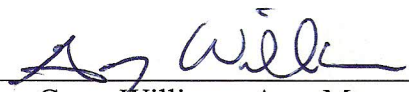
Map showing USFS lands/protection boundaries and Baxendale VFD protection boundaries

Agency Name: US Forest Service
Helena National Forest
Address 2880 Skyway Drive
City, State Zip Helena, Montana 59601

Signature: 
Kevin Riordan, Forest Supervisor

Date: OCTOBER 20, 2009

Agency Name: Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Central Land Office
Address 8001 N Montana Avenue
City, State Zip Helena, Montana 59602

Signature: 
Garry Williams, Area Manager

Date: 10/23/09